

Network Working Group  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: 13 May 2021

R. Housley  
Vigil Security  
9 November 2020

Using the AES-GMAC Algorithm with the Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)  
draft-housley-lamps-cms-aes-mac-alg-00

## Abstract

This document specifies the conventions for using the AES-GMAC Message Authentication Code algorithms with the Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) as specified in RFC 5652.

## Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at <https://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/>.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on 13 May 2021.

## Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2020 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to BCP 78 and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (<https://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Simplified BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Simplified BSD License.

## Table of Contents

1. Introduction . . . . .	2
2. Terminology . . . . .	2
3. Message Authentication Code Algorithms . . . . .	2
3.1. AES-GMAC . . . . .	2
4. Implementation Considerations . . . . .	3
5. ASN.1 Module . . . . .	4
6. IANA Considerations . . . . .	5
7. Security Considerations . . . . .	5
8. References . . . . .	6
8.1. Normative References . . . . .	6
8.2. Informative References . . . . .	6
Author's Address . . . . .	6

## 1. Introduction

This document specifies the conventions for using the AES-GMAC [AES][GCM] Message Authentication Code (MAC) algorithm with the Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) [RFC5652].

## 2. Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

## 3. Message Authentication Code Algorithms

This section specifies the conventions employed by CMS [RFC5652] implementations that support the AES-GMAC [AES][GCM] Message Authentication Code (MAC) algorithm.

MAC algorithm identifiers are located in the AuthenticatedData macAlgorithm field.

MAC values are located in the AuthenticatedData mac field.

## 3.1. AES-GMAC

The AES-GMAC [AES][GCM] Message Authentication Code (MAC) algorithm uses one of the following algorithm identifiers; the choice depends on the size of the AES key, which is either 128 bits, 192 bits, or 256 bits:

```
aes OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { joint-iso-itu-t(2) country(16) us(840)
    organization(1) gov(101) csor(3) nistAlgorithm(4) 1 }
```

```
id-aes128-GMAC OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { aes 9 }
```

```
id-aes192-GMAC OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { aes 29 }
```

```
id-aes256-GMAC OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { aes 49 }
```

For all three of these algorithm identifier values, the AlgorithmIdentifier parameters field MUST be present, and the parameters MUST contain GMACParameters:

```
GMACParameters ::= SEQUENCE {
    nonce          OCTET STRING, -- recommended size is 12 octets
    length         MACLength DEFAULT 12 }
```

```
MACLength ::= INTEGER (12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16)
```

The GMACParameters nonce parameter is the GMAC initialization vector. The nonce may have any number of bits between 8 and  $2^{64}$ , but it MUST be a multiple of 8 bits. Within the scope of any content-authentication key, the nonce value MUST be unique. A nonce value of 12 octets can be processed more efficiently, so that length for the nonce value is RECOMMENDED.

The GMACParameters length parameter field tells the size of the message authentication code. It MUST match the size in octets of the value in the AuthenticatedData mac field. A length of 12 octets is RECOMMENDED.

#### 4. Implementation Considerations

An implementation of the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) Galois/Counter Mode (GCM) authenticated encryption algorithm is specified in [GCM]. An implementation of AES-GCM can be used to compute the GMAC message authentication code by providing the content-authentication key as the AES key, the nonce as the initialization vector, a zero-length plaintext content, and the content to be authenticated as the additional authenticated data (AAD). The result of the AES-GCM invocation the AES-GMAC authentication code, which is called the authentication tag in some implementations. In AES-GCM, the encryption step is skipped when a zero-length input plaintext is provided; therefore, any value returned for ciphertext is ignored.

## 5. ASN.1 Module

The following ASN.1 module uses the definition for MAC-ALGORITHM from [RFC5912].

```
CryptographicMessageSyntaxGMACAlgorithms
{ iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549)
  pkcs(1) pkcs-9(9) smime(16) modules(0)
  id-mod-aes-gmac-alg-2020(TBD) }

DEFINITIONS IMPLICIT TAGS ::=
BEGIN

-- EXPORTS All

IMPORTS
  AlgorithmIdentifier{}, MAC-ALGORITHM
  FROM AlgorithmInformation-2009 -- from [RFC5912]
    { iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
      security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0)
      id-mod-algorithmInformation-02(58) } ;

-- Object Identifiers

aes OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { joint-iso-itu-t(2) country(16) us(840)
  organization(1) gov(101) csor(3) nistAlgorithm(4) 1 }

id-aes128-GMAC OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { aes 9 }

id-aes192-GMAC OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { aes 29 }

id-aes256-GMAC OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { aes 49 }

-- GMAC Parameters

GMACParameters ::= SEQUENCE {
  nonce      OCTET STRING, -- recommended size is 12 octets
  length     MACLength DEFAULT 12 }

MACLength ::= INTEGER (12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16)

-- Algorithm Identifiers

maca-aes128-GMAC MAC-ALGORITHM ::= {
  IDENTIFIER id-aes128-GMAC
  PARAMS TYPE GMACParameters ARE required
  IS-KEYED-MAC TRUE }
```

```
maca-aes192-GMAC MAC-ALGORITHM ::= {  
    IDENTIFIER id-aes192-GMAC  
    PARAMS TYPE GMACParameters ARE required  
    IS-KEYED-MAC TRUE }  
  
maca-aes256-GMAC MAC-ALGORITHM ::= {  
    IDENTIFIER id-aes256-GMAC  
    PARAMS TYPE GMACParameters ARE required  
    IS-KEYED-MAC TRUE }  
  
END -- of CryptographicMessageSyntaxGMACAlgorithms
```

## 6. IANA Considerations

IANA is asked to register object identifiers for one module identifier in the "SMI Security for S/MIME Module Identifier (1.2.840.113549.1.9.16.0)" registry for id-mod-aes-gmac-alg-2020.

## 7. Security Considerations

The CMS provides a method for authenticating data. This document identifies the conventions for using the AES-GMAC algorithm with the CMS.

The key management technique employed to distribute message-authentication keys must itself provide authentication, otherwise the content is delivered with integrity from an unknown source.

When more than two parties share the same message-authentication key, data origin authentication is not provided. Any party that knows the message-authentication key can compute a valid MAC, therefore the content could originate from any one of the parties.

Implementations must randomly generate message-authentication keys. The use of inadequate pseudo-random number generators (PRNGs) to generate keys can result in little or no security. An attacker may find it much easier to reproduce the PRNG environment that produced the keys, searching the resulting small set of possibilities, rather than brute force searching the whole key space. The generation of quality random numbers is difficult. [RFC4086] offers important guidance in this area.

Implementers should be aware that cryptographic algorithms become weaker with time. As new cryptanalysis techniques are developed and computing performance improves, the work factor to break a particular cryptographic algorithm will reduce. Therefore, cryptographic algorithm implementations should be modular allowing new algorithms to be readily inserted. That is, implementers should be prepared to regularly update the set of algorithms in their implementations.

## 8. References

### 8.1. Normative References

- [AES] National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), "Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)", FIPS Publication 197, November 2001.
- [GCM] M., D., "Recommendation for Block Cipher Modes of Operation: Galois/Counter Mode (GCM) and GMAC", NIST Special Publication 800-38D, November 2007.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.
- [RFC5652] Housley, R., "Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)", STD 70, RFC 5652, DOI 10.17487/RFC5652, September 2009, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5652>>.
- [RFC8174] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in RFC 2119 Key Words", BCP 14, RFC 8174, DOI 10.17487/RFC8174, May 2017, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174>>.

### 8.2. Informative References

- [RFC4086] Eastlake 3rd, D., Schiller, J., and S. Crocker, "Randomness Requirements for Security", BCP 106, RFC 4086, DOI 10.17487/RFC4086, June 2005, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4086>>.
- [RFC5912] Hoffman, P. and J. Schaad, "New ASN.1 Modules for the Public Key Infrastructure Using X.509 (PKIX)", RFC 5912, DOI 10.17487/RFC5912, June 2010, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5912>>.

Author's Address

Russ Housley  
Vigil Security, LLC  
516 Dranesville Road  
Herndon, VA, 20170  
United States of America

Email: housley@vigilsec.com